

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Fluorescent~~ A fluorescent lamp-(1) comprising:
a glass discharge vessel-(2) in which a gas is present, which discharge vessel (2) is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion-(3) having a longitudinal axis, which end portion-(3) includes a glass stem-(5), wherein:
an exhaust tube-(6) extends axially outwardly from ~~said the~~ the stem-(5) for supplying and/or discharging gases during the production of the lamp-(1), ~~and wherein~~
an electrode-(8) extends axially inwardly through the stem-(5) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel-(2), ~~said the~~ the electrode-(8) comprises ~~including~~ including two pole wires-(9) held in position by the stem-(5) and connected to plug pins-(11) of an end cap-(13) fixed to ~~said the~~ the end portion-(3), ~~characterized in that said and~~
the end cap-(13) is at least substantially made of a shrink material.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Fluorescent lamp (1) according to~~ The lamp of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the shrink material is a heat shrink material.
3. (Currently amended) ~~Fluorescent lamp (1) according to~~ The lamp of claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ the heat shrink material is chosen from the group consisting of PVC, ~~polyolefin's, polyolefins, nylon or, and polyester.~~
4. (Currently amended) ~~Fluorescent lamp (1) according to~~ The lamp of claim 2 or 3, wherein ~~said the~~ the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 80° and 200° C, ~~preferably between 100° and 150° C.~~

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a fluorescent lamp ~~(1)~~,
~~wherein comprising:~~

providing a glass discharge ~~(2)~~ vessel ~~is on two sides provided with that~~
includes at least a tubular end portion ~~(3)~~ having a longitudinal axis, wherein the end
portion ~~(3)~~ is provided with a glass stem ~~(5)~~, ~~wherein an electrode (8) is fitted to~~
extend axially inwardly through the stem ~~(5)~~ for generating and maintaining a
discharge in the discharge vessel ~~(2)~~, ~~wherein and an exhaust tube (6) is fitted to~~
extend axially outwardly from ~~said the~~ stem ~~(5)~~,

filling the discharge vessel through which the exhaust tube ~~(6)~~ ~~the discharge~~
~~vessel (2) is filled with a gas, and wherein~~

connecting two pole wires ~~(9)~~ of ~~said the~~ electrode ~~(8)~~ that are held in position
by the stem ~~(5)~~ ~~and are connected to plug pins (11) of an end cap that is made~~
substantially of a shrinkable material, and (13) fixed to said end portion (3),
~~characterized in that said~~

fixing the end cap (13) is fixed to said to the end portion (3) through by
shrinking the end cap, preferably heat shrinking.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the shrinking includes heat shrinking.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the end cap is made substantially of a heat
shrink material.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the heat shrink material is chosen from the
group consisting of PVC, polyolefins, nylon, and polyester.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the shrinking is performed at a temperature
varying between 80° and 200° C.

10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the shrinking is performed at a
temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.

11. (New) The lamp of claim 2, wherein the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.

12. (New) The lamp of claim 3, wherein the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.